

# FORAGE RADISH

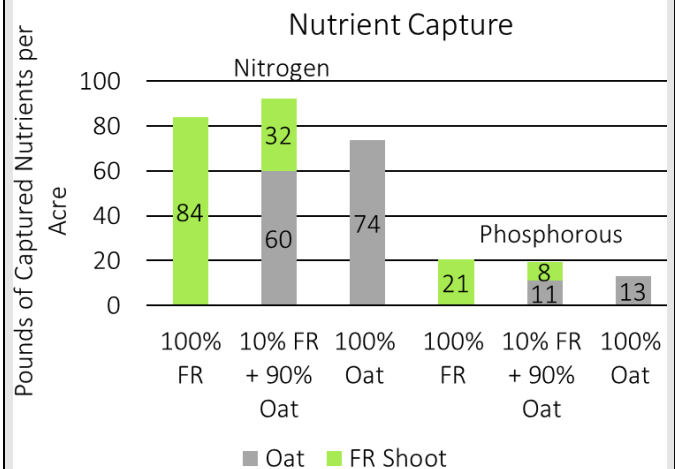
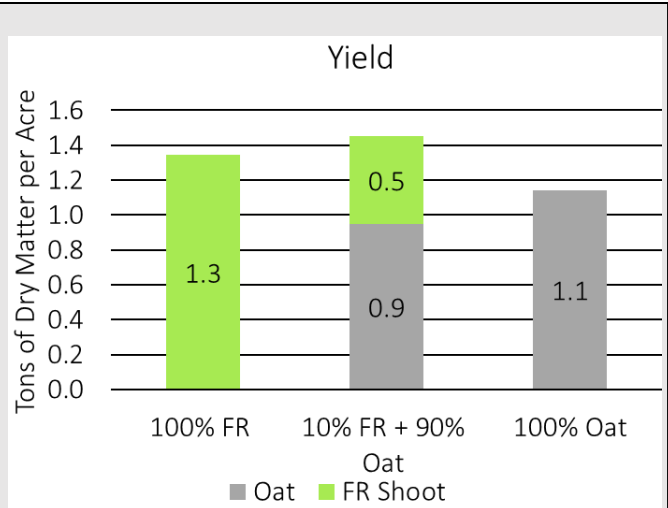
## MANAGEMENT

- Forage radish (FR) and oats can be planted from mid-August through the first week of September.
- At 60 days after planting, plants have captured nutrients from the soil and are ready for grazing or feeding as green chop.
- Plants tolerate a few mild frosts before winterkilling. Graze at 60 days or before the first frost. Plants can continue to be grazed after a mild frost until they die.
- For use as a cover crop and forage, seed 100 lbs. oat/A and 1-1.5 lbs. FR/A. This results in a final crop that is 35% FR and 65% oat by dry weight, contains 17% crude protein (CP), and is mild in palatability.
- Animals may have an adjustment period as they acclimate to the FR "flavor".

## BENEFITS

- Unlike dual-purpose crops that overwinter – such as rye, wheat and triticale – FR and oats leave minimal spring residue and require no spring cleanup.
- Because regrowth is not a goal, animals can graze crops all the way down.
- A FR and oat mix captures more nutrients and provides greater yields than a monocrop of either.
- Cows, goats, and sheep can all graze this mixture.
- On average, seeds cost \$85/A and produce 1.4 tons (dry weight); in other words, it costs \$30 per 1000 lbs. of forage.

## THE NUMBERS





# FORAGE RADISH

## FOR THE RECORD:

I PLANTED \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES ON: \_\_\_\_\_  
(#) (date)

I BOUGHT MY SEEDS FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

MY SEEDING RATES WERE:

OAT: \_\_\_\_\_ FR: \_\_\_\_\_  
(lbs./A) (lbs./A)

THE # AND TYPE OF ANIMALS I GRAZED, THE LENGTH OF GRAZING TIME, Paddock SIZE, & THE DATES WERE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT YEAR I WILL CHANGE: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT US

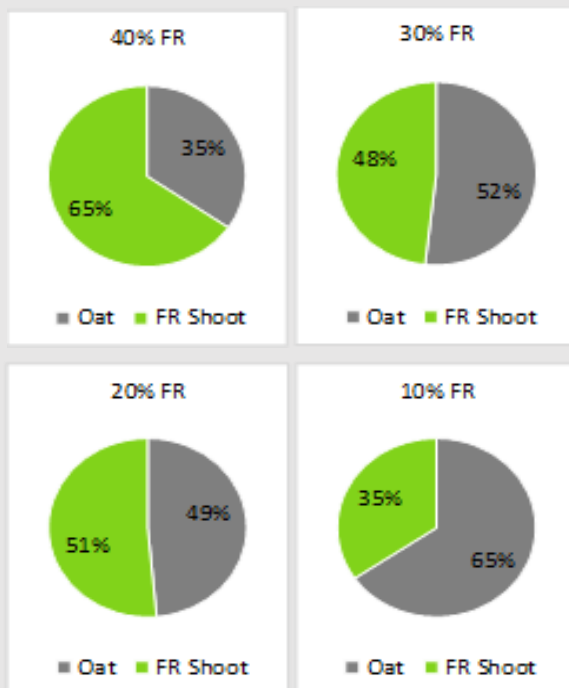
This information sheet was produced from research conducted by Sam Corcoran and Masoud Hashemi of UMass, Amherst.

For more information, please contact Sam Corcoran at 978-855-3242 or [sglazecorcor@umass.edu](mailto:sglazecorcor@umass.edu)

Research supported by Northeast SARE. For the full report, visit <https://projects.sare.org/search-projects/> and search project number GNE15-102.

## CONSIDERATIONS

- Be conservative with FR if you adjust the seeding rates. FR was planted at 10, 20, 30, and 40% of a recommended 8 lb. seeding rate with oats at 90, 80, 70, and 60% of a recommended 110 lb. seeding rate. These mixtures resulted in the following crop compositions (dry weight):



- Brassicas, including FR, naturally make compounds called glucosinolates, which are responsible for the spicy taste of mustards. If consumed in excess, they can cause illness in animals.

- The 20% planting ratio can be fed safely (90 lbs. oats and 2.5-3 lbs. FR), providing 2 tons dry matter/A at 20% CP and catching 120 lbs. N and 28 lbs. P/A. Start with a low rate blend and monitor animal preferences & crop composition on your land.

# AND OATS

